

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2004-363-C - ORDER NO. 2005-114
MARCH 18, 2005

IN RE: Request of Bell Atlantic Communications,) ORDER APPROVING
Inc. DBA Verizon Long Distance for Tariff) RATE CHANGES
Revision to Increase the Maximum Monthly)
Recurring Charges to \$12.00.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the tariff revision filed by Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Long Distance (Verizon or the Company). This filing increases the maximum Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC) associated with Plan F service, 60 minute allotment to \$12.00. Upon approval of this filing, the Company plans to increase the current rate for this rate element from \$5.00 to \$6.00. According to the Company, this is not a general rate increase and does not impact the general body of subscribers.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Docketing Department, the Company published a Notice of Filing in a newspaper of general circulation in the area served by the Company's service. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received. Accordingly, Verizon moved for Expedited Review of the tariff revision, and provided verified testimony to support it. We grant expedited review and approve the tariff revision as filed.

Verizon filed the verified testimony of John Broten, who is President of Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. doing business as Verizon Long Distance. Broten testified that the service that the Company is proposing to change is tarified under the generic

name Plan F. Currently, this plan is market to the public as TalkTime. This is a “block of time” calling plan that offers customers the choice of the number of minutes they want to purchase for a monthly plan price. The specific rate element that the Company is seeking to change is the TalkTime 60 monthly recurring charge. This is the fixed rate element associated with the service when the customer chooses the option that provides sixty minutes of calling for a set monthly recurring charge. The current rate is \$5.00. That is also the current maximum rate in the South Carolina tariff for the service. The Company plans to increase this monthly recurring charge to \$6.00 in all jurisdictions. In order to do so in South Carolina, the Company must first increase its maximum rate. The Company proposes to increase the maximum rate to \$12.00.

Mr. Broten stated that the Company constantly reviews its rates and products. He states that he often increases or reduces rates to strike the right balance between maximizing revenue and staying competitive in the marketplace. The Company also increases rates from time to time in order to get customers to move from one product to another. Broten notes that this service can continue to be made available by increasing the rate proposed.

We believe that the requested increase in the maximum rate for the service should be granted.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Company is seeking an increase in the maximum rate for a product called Plan F. The product is marketed to the public as “TalkTime.” The maximum rate change is for the monthly recurring charge.

2. The Company is seeking an increase from \$5.00 to \$12.00 in the maximum monthly recurring charge.
3. The Company is attempting to strike a balance between maximizing revenue and remaining competitive in the marketplace.
4. The service can continue to be made available under the new rate.
5. The change in the maximum rate should be granted. Accordingly, the Company should be allowed to increase its actual rate from \$5.00 to \$6.00.
6. The Company should file tariff sheets reflecting the change in the rates.

ORDER

The maximum rate change to \$12.00 is approved, as is the change in the actual rate from \$5.00 to \$6.00. The Company shall file revised tariff sheets to reflect the changes. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)